

IN CELEBRATION OF THE CAREER
OF HON. DEE HARDISON

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the distinguished career of a spectacular individual—the Honorable Dee Hardison, who steps down today as mayor of the City of Torrance.

Mayor Hardison, whom I fondly and proudly call my “sister,” and I have worked together closely over the last decade to serve the citizens of Torrance and the greater South Bay community of Los Angeles County. Whether it was fighting to keep the Los Angeles Air Force base right where it is, to prevent a geographic split in the 310 telephone area code, or to support the Torrance public school system, I have always treasured Dee’s advice, passion, dedication and, most importantly, her hands-on approach. And speaking of dedication, Mr. Speaker, how many mayors do you know who would continue a 40-mile bike ride after tumbling off her bike during the first leg? Well, that is exactly what Mayor Hardison did one year during my biannual campaign bike ride!

But besides biking, being a good friend, and reaching the “gold standard” of wife, mother and grandmother, Mayor Hardison has devoted so much of her energy to her community. For nearly three decades, Dee shepherded thousands of young people through the Torrance Unified School District, including many years as a special education teacher. While a teacher, she was appointed to the City of Torrance’s Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission. In 1986, she successfully ran for a seat on the City Council and served there for eight years. Having reached the limits on terms of service, she then successfully ran for Mayor, a post she has held with distinction and grace.

While holding all these “day jobs,” Dee still found time to devote to many important community organizations, including—but certainly not limited to—the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, the Torrance Education Foundation, the Torrance Sister City Association, the Rose Float Association, and the Torrance League of Women Voters. Finally, Dee distinguished herself as a regional leader, recently completing a tour as Chair of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, which has been instrumental in developing regional solutions to the area’s transportation challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss having Dee as the Mayor of the largest independent city in my district. But I know she will continue to be an active leader in the community be a ready source of advice and counsel. With more spare time, I hope she is improving her biking skills and will join me again this fall on the bike trail.

MURLI DEORA JOINS INDIA’S
UPPER HOUSE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, one of the architects of the growing diplomatic relation-

ship between the United States and India received some long overdue recognition last weekend when Murlı Deora was elected to the Raja Sabha, the Upper House of India’s National Parliament.

As our colleagues may recall, relations between the United States and India went through difficult times during the 70’s and 80’s because of the Cold War. We were, as former Ambassador Dennis Kux declared, “estranged democracies.” Yet, even during the weakest of times in our relationship with India, Murlı Deora worked hard to bring our two nations together. His views were often times at odds with the foreign policy establishment in his country. Only during the past decade did the United States’ democracy finally draw close to the world’s largest democracy. In the process, Murlı Deora was vindicated.

Mr. Speaker, Murlı Deora has a long and distinguished career as a politician in India. Murlı began his career in public service more than twenty-five years ago as the Mayor of Mumbai, India’s largest city. Although Murlı’s public life has taken him to all parts of the world, he has never forgotten his roots or his love of this city of more than twelve million people. A long time member of the Congress Party, Murlı remains President of the Mumbai Regional Congress Committee, a grassroots party organization renowned in Indian politics.

Upon completing two terms as Mumbai’s mayor, Murlı was elected repeatedly to the Lok Sabha, the Lower House of India’s parliament. During his many years as a Parliamentarian, Murlı distinguished himself as a skilled legislator. Among his many accomplishments was passage of landmark legislation to open India’s insurance market to foreign investment. Murlı also used his tenure in the Lok Sabha to become a tireless advocate for stronger India-U.S. ties. He founded the India-U.S. Interparliamentary Forum and headed the Indo U.S. Initiative. When members of this body decided to band together to create the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, Murlı offered his encouragement and support. As the current Co-Chairman of the Caucus, I can attest first hand to Murlı’s dedication, energy and foresight.

Mr. Speaker, the world has always been Murlı’s forum. A former President of the Parliamentary for Global Action, Murlı has spent the last three years working as a senior official of the Indian Red Cross and as International Vice President for the Red Cross in Geneva. Therefore, it is both fitting and appropriate that Murlı has been elected without opposition to the Raja Sabha. All of us who know Murlı congratulate him and welcome his induction into this senior most legislative body in India. I am confident that Murlı will continue to immerse himself in the pressing problems of hunger, disease, the underclass and economic development. And, I am certain that relations between our two countries will also continue to occupy a central place in Murlı’s busy world. As a result, we have much to look forward to, and relations between our two countries will be the clear beneficiary.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TED DIAZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor an extraordinary man whose passion for life and incredible human spirit is an inspiration to us all. Ted Diaz, a native Coloradan whose passion for our great state is as constant and unyielding as any I’ve ever known, recently passed an impressive milestone, celebrating his eightieth birthday with a gathering of his friends and family.

Ted was born on April 1st, 1922 in Delta, Colorado, as one of twelve siblings. He attended school in Silt, Colorado, and later moved to Rifle, where he currently resides. Throughout his life, he has been the consummate athlete and good citizen, winning accolades in basketball, softball, bowling and horseshoes, while always giving his time and energy to the community as a mentor and a friend. He coached the town’s American Legion baseball team, as well as the girls’ town team, and umpired high school games in both the spring and summer. For 27 years, he selflessly gave his time to the community by marking the football field for high school games, and by volunteering to run the yard marker. In addition, he valiantly served in the U.S. Army from his station in the Philippines.

While working for Re-2 for 27 years, Ted was also involved in a number of philanthropic activities. He is a member of the Elks, Knights of Columbus and American Legion, and served as commander of American Legion and VFW. In addition, he volunteers his time at preschool in Rifle and in Glenwood Springs. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment, however, was marrying Jo, his lovely wife of 52 years, and raising their son.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I bring to the attention of this body of Congress, the life and spirit of such an incredible man, who is always able to brighten and invigorate the lives of those around him. He is truly an inspiration to all of us, and I, along with the many people whose lives he has touched, am honored to recognize his tremendous accomplishment in reaching his eightieth birthday, and more importantly, his passion for life and indomitable spirit.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR COMMEMORATION—
THANKING KOREAN HOSTS OF
U.S. KOREAN WAR VETERANS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for the kindness and hospitality you showed our Korean War veterans during their visit to Korea. This commemoration is an important reminder of the difficult time when the United States helped Korea fight Communist aggression, and celebrates the victory of democracy over an authoritarian dictatorship. Since that terrible war, many Americans have had the privilege of serving in Korea,